Maharashtra under various schemes during the last four years, scheme-wise:

(b) whether the sanctioned-amcunt is uitilized by State Governments for the purpose for which it was provided;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The details of the amount released to the State Governments including the State of Bihar and Maharashtra under various schemes of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy and the Department of Secondary and Higher Education during last four years is given in the Annexure (see Appendix 207 Annexure No. 8) Grants released to State Governments under the centrally sponsored schemes are indicative of the utilisation of previous funds by States as fresh releases are made primarily on the basis of the progress of utilisation of the funds released in previous years apart from other parameters like the proposals received, availability of resources under various schemas.

Scresing films for festlvals

2192. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a policy that will not require movies to be cleared by the Censor Board prior to being screened at the film festivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will smoothen the process of getting foreign films for festivals in our country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government has taken a policy decision to support film festivals by according exemption from certification to certain categories of films. However, this is subject to a formal application to the Ministry of i&B and fulfillment of some prerequisites.

(b) A broad-based Committee comprising academicians, officiate and members of the film industry was constituted to look into the matter regarding exemption from the process of certification of films entered into the various film festivals. The Committee's report was accepted by the Government and it was decided that all films entered into various film festivals, including foreign and Indian films, would be considered for exemption from the process of certification under Section 9 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 provided they are confined to delegates and the festival is non-commercial in nature. This Ministry's Office Memorandum dated 17th January, 2006 is available on the Ministry's website_www.mib.nic.ln.

(c) The foreign films being entered into the various film festivals in this country would not have to wait for being certified before entry into the festivals.

Telecast of BD-1 and DD-2 programmes by cable operators

2193. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a mandate to all cable operators to telecast DD-1 and DD-2 without interruption;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the cable operators across the country are not following the mandate of Government which causes inconvenience
to the public;

(c) whether Government nave issued any direction or order to strictly adhere to Government's direction; and

(d) what steps Government have initiated to strictly monitor the cable operators to telecast the DD-1 and DD-2 channels with clarity?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI), (a) Under the provisions of Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1985, the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) has notified Doordarshan channels DD-1 and DD-2 and one regional language channel of the Stats for mandatory re-transmission by every cable operator in his cable services